From:	Ehud Barak <ehbarak1@gmail.com>
To:	Edward Temko <temkon@me.com>
CC:	
Date:	Wed, 6/17/2015 1:20:38 AM
Subject:	Re: from ned

Hi Ned
Technically it is Debriefing. Or in Hebrew (plural) Tahkirim. תחקירים.
It is run on battalion level,than brigade level, than division level than regional command level (southern/northern command etc.)
So, there are many of them. Over several weeks. Thus, the use of plural language.
Now, with post war black humor we've noticed the tendency for nostalgic, sometimes even painful, bitter sweet mood of reporting at the first level and nicknamed it Sipurey Kravot. סיפורי קרבות.
Which means "Battles Stories".
Then, along the way we've noticed that certain commanders who were quite confused sometimes during the actual battle and somewhat hesitant and vague in the first debriefing/reporting became more confident from stage to stage of the debriefings (battalion., brigade etc.)adding flavored,details and kind of (retroactive) prescient skill regard battle developments that didn't seem to really be there during the battles themselves.
So we've cynically noted that Sipurey Kravot turned into Shipurey Kravot
שיפורי קרבות.
Which means "Battles (retroactive) improvements".
(note that phonetically it is exactly the Sibboleth/Shibboleth biblical differentiation.)
Cynical detached remarks/responses aren't rare among commanders in post battle context and usually are made with a subtle tone of eyebrow raising accompanied by a lot of empathy and understanding. After all we were all just out of the toughest possible human experience which is leading men forward against enemy fire. Loosing, irreversibly, so many of our own comrades. Some buried many wounded.
Certain cynicism and self deprecating/detached black humor keep commanders spirits up and helps keeping yourself balanced and "calibrated" to face the tough reality.

Hope this helps.
Best
EB

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 16, 2015, at 23:00, Edward Temko <temkon@me.com> wrote:

> Hi Ehud:
> Can you remind me of the Hebrew word for the discussion meetings soldiers and officers held after the 1973 war to talk
> through their experiences, and what had gone wrong? Also, the slang expression you mentioned (a slight variation on
> the word) that captured the fact that the more times people told their stories, the less self-critical they became…?
> Thanks very much
> Ned